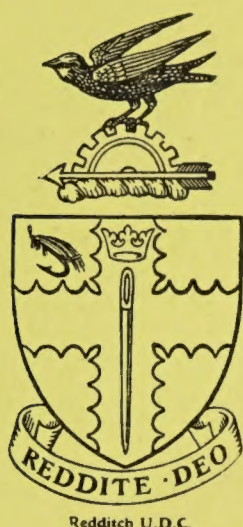


REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH


and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1972



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R E D D I T C H U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

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Chairman of the Council:-

Councillor E.G.J.Quiney.

Vice-Chairman:-

Councillor F.A.A.Clarke.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:-

Councillor F.A.F.Clarke.

Vice-Chairman:-

Councillor Mrs A.M.Sanders.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor A.Bedford-Smith.

Councillor W.Metcalf.

Councillor A.H.Chester.

Councillor G.G.Miller.

Councillor E.J.T.Cole.

Councillor G.E.Parton.

Councillor Mrs J.Hadley.

Councillor E.G.T.Quiney.

Councillor C.Harris.

Councillor Miss V.M.Ramsey.

Councillor J.R.Haynes.

Councillor T.Wareing.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr.D.R.McCaully, B.A., M.D., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

A.Summerfield, Cert.S.I.B.(Meat &
Food Inspector's Cert.of R.S.H.,
Smoke Inspector's Cert.of R.S.H.)
M.A.P.H.I., M.I.S.A.A. M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

F.M.Pocock, Cert.P.H.I.E.B. (Meat &
Food Inspector's Cert.of R.S.H.
Smoke Inspector's Cert.of R.S.H.)
M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

M.O.Tuddenham, Cert.P.H.I.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

R.L.Cartwright, B.Sc., M.A.P.H.I.
M.R.S.H. Left April 1972.

Public Health Inspector.

C.H.Jones, Dip.P.H.I.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Left July 1972.

Public Health Inspector.

S.W.Talbot, Dip.P.H.I.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector.

I.Belton, Dip.P.H.I.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I. Appointed July/72.

Public Health Inspector.

T.MacKinlay, Dip.P.H.I.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., Appointed Sep./72.

Public Health Inspector.

D.Holman,

Student Public Health Inspector.

Mrs M.M.Arnold,

Clerk/Typist.

Mrs W.J.Reed,

Clerk/Typist.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This, my fifth Annual Report which I now present for the year 1972, will be my last to this Council. This is a result of a dual change in the shape of Local Government reorganisation and of reorganisation of the Health Service in which the Medical Officer of Health becomes incorporated into it under the new title of Community Physician.

The partnership between Public Health and the Local Authorities has been a long and in many ways fruitful one. Now that it is to be dissolved it is interesting to reflect on some of these fruits. In the case of Redditch it has lasted since 1874 when the then Medical Officer of Health produced his first Annual Report. At that time the population of the district was 8,149, there was no public water supply as we know it and virtually no piped sewage disposal, as this extract from the report of the Medical Officer of Health for that year shows - "There appears to be a total length of streets of 24,043 feet of which less than one-seventh is sufficiently sewered." Middens were the rule and the towns water came from a number of shallow wells, the water from which was often not only unfit for human consumption but also "entirely unfit for domestic or any other purpose". In that year (1875) there were six cases of Typhoid. The deaths numbered eighteen from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, twelve from Whooping Cough and four from Diphtheria - not to mention one from Alcoholism, somewhat euphemistically termed "intemperance". In view of the state of the water and the sewage disposal, or lack of it, it is surprising that there were not more than six cases of Typhoid, although this, today, would reach the national headlines, but it is hardly surprising that five children under one year old died of summer diarrhoea.

To contrast this state of affairs with the present day is not too difficult. We have adequate sewage disposal and water supply which is at least safe, even if it suffers a little at times from the defects of its qualities - poor palatability due to chlorination. Most of us would agree that for safe water the price is not too high. The death rate has halved at 12.1 per thousand and the birth rate has more than halved at 18.1 per thousand (42.8 per thousand in 1875).

The history of the past 25 years or so has been a catalogue of change affecting the administration of the Health Services. It should be remembered that before the National Health Services Act of 1946 many medical services were run by Local Authorities, including the Tuberculosis Services both prevention and treatment. Such fine chest hospitals for instance as Harefield County Hospital run by the old Middlesex County Council or the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium - as, also, the Tuberculosis Preventive Field Services which were run by the old Tuberculosis Officers of the County Councils and County Boroughs. These services were all incorporated into the new Health Service after 1946, the old "Tuberculosis Officers" becoming the new "Chest Physicians" working in the new Chest Clinics spread throughout the country. Thus Tuberculosis prevention and treatment was largely subtracted from Public Health under the control of the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Authorities, prior to which time it had formed a not inconsiderable part of it.

Then we had the Seebohm Report some 25 years later which resulted in the social content being subtracted from medicine - that is to say administratively speaking, since this would clearly be impossible in any other sense. With so much change, even when of a largely administrative nature in which dividing lines cannot clearly be drawn except on paper, it may be said that the only thing which has changed relatively little is ourselves.

Public Healthwise, or to use the new title, Community Healthwise, this was quite a good year. The birth rate fell slightly from the slight plateau which it had reached in the years 1970 and 1971 and this may continue as a slow downward trend which has been taking place in recent years. The Redditch birth rate, of course, receives a boost from the relatively high proportion of young people in the incoming population, in spite of which, however, there was a slight reduction in 1972. The death rate rose slightly in conformity with the country as a whole and there were sixteen more deaths from heart disease in all its forms than in the previous year.

Of the infectious diseases during the year, two are worthy of mention. Firstly Measles, of which there was a disappointingly large number of notifications. This is because the response to Measles vaccination which has been offered to the public since 1968, has been poor, only 524 children having been so immunised in 1972 as compared with 743 during the previous year. In order to make a real impact on the Measles incidence it will be necessary to immunise something like 60% of the children and this, at present, is far from being achieved. Vaccination against Measles is offered to all infants of 13 months and also to pre-school children. It is both safe and effective and if sufficient numbers of children avail of it this troublesome disease which produces so many serious and disabling complications could be controlled and eventually eliminated.

Secondly Tuberculosis. There were seven new pulmonary cases notified in 1972 and two non-pulmonary. This shows an increase over the previous year although the numbers are small. Although the number on the Tuberculosis Register has been declining for some years, there is still a problem of a "hard core" or almost irreducible minimum of Tuberculosis infection in the community. This is now mostly confined to the middleaged and the elderly. The youth continue to be protected by having B.C.G. vaccination in the schools when they are aged thirteen and over. Other measures are designed to discovering and treating infectious cases as soon as possible. To this end, immigrants from countries where the Tuberculosis incidence is much higher than our own are chest X-rayed at the port of entry, or if not, every effort is made to trace them and X-ray them in Redditch.

Since the time that this report covers, a new Discotheque has been opened, which, judging by the attendance, has been greatly appreciated. But the enjoyment of which being apparently at least partly dependent on the eardrums being bombarded with sound. This raises the possibility of a noise problem, on which much research has already been done in various quarters, most of which is as yet inconclusive since it depends too much on recorded noise levels and not enough on observed effects on hearing, which, however, can only be carried out over quite a long period of time. In essence the possible deleterious effects on hearing depend on three things - the volume or intensity of the sound, the duration over which people are subjected to it, and the pitch of the sound. There is also the question of intermittent or continuous sound. But the first two of these considerations are vastly the most important - that is volume and duration, and it is certainly a matter of years, in some cases five to ten years, before any hearing impairment can usually be demonstrated by audiological tests. This is not to say that the noise levels should not be kept below certain levels in discotheques on the reasonable assumption, as yet unproven, that hearing impairment may result eventually if they are used regularly by individuals over a long enough period. The period over which they would be used would be about five or six years, that is to say usually between the ages of about thirteen to nineteen.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and Public Health Committee for their support during the year, and the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

D.R. McCaully
Medical Officer of Health

Registrar General's Estimate of the resident population for mid-1972	42,830
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1972 ...;	15,000
Rateable Value	£1,919,402
Sum represented by the penny rate	£17,368

BIRTH RATE (Live Births per 1,000 population)

BIRTHS RATE for Redditch and for England & Wales over the past 5 years					
Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Redditch	17.56	16.2	20.8	20.6	18.1
England & Wales	16.9	16.3	16.0	16.0	14.8

DEATH RATE (Deaths per 1,000 of the population)

DEATHS RATE for Redditch and for England & Wales over the past 5 years					
Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Redditch	10.3	11.3	11.6	9.7	12.4
England & Wales	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6	12.1

POPULATION - Registrar General's Estimate of the Population of Redditch over the past five years:-

<u>Annual Increase</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
820	1968	37,089
2,110	1969	37,900
1,150	1970	40,019
1,670	1971	41,160
	1972	42,830

SECTION 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES - Clinic and Treatment Services

<u>CLINIC</u>	<u>SITUATION</u>	<u>TIME OF HOLDING</u>
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre	Smallwood Health Centre	Tuesday & Thursday 2.00
Batchley Estate Infant Welfare Clinic	Church Hall, Batchley Estate	Second Wednesday, 2.00 p.m.
Webheath Infant Welfare Clinic	Village Hall, Webheath	Third Wednesday, 2.00 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Clinic	Church Hall, Astwood Bank	Second and Fourth Monday, 2.00 p.m.
Greenlands Estate Infant Welfare Clinic	Church Hall, Greenlands	Tuesday, 2.00 p.m.
Headless Cross Infant Welfare Clinic	Methodist Hall, Headless Cross	Third Monday, 2.00 p.m.
Crabbs Cross Infant Welfare Clinic	Salvation Army Hall, Crabbs Cross	Third Friday, 2.00 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre	Village Hall, Feckenham	First Wednesday, 2.00 p.m.
Woodrow Infant Welfare Centre	Martley Close, Woodrow	Monday and Wednesday, 2.00 p.m.
Matchborough Infant Welfare Centre	Eathorpe Close, Matchborough	Tuesday and Wednesday, 2.00 p.m.
Audiometric Clinic	Smallwood Health Centre	Mondays by appointment
Cervical Cytology Clinic	" " "	Third Friday, by appointment
Chiropody Clinic	" " "	Wednesday afternoon
Dental Clinic	" " "	By appointment daily
Speech Therapist Clinic	" " "	All day Wednesday and Thursday
Ophthalmic Clinic	" " "	Tuesday morning
Family Planning Clinic	" " "	Friday by appointment
Relaxation & Mothercraft	" " "	Thursday afternoon
Children's Department	" " "	Wednesday, 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon
Home Help Supervisor	" " "	Daily, Monday - Friday
Family & Social Welfare Association	" " "	Monday, 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Three agencies provide the midwifery services for the district:-

1. The family doctor - ante-natal and post-natal care and home confinements.
2. The County Council - ante-natal clinics and district midwives.

The County Council provide nurse/midwives who attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Council continued to subscribe to the Council for Health Education.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is now organised by the County Council Social Services Department and is run locally through an office at the Smallwood Health Centre.

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES are run by the County Council and the local offices are at the Social Services Department, Smallwood Health Centre.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The W.R.V.S. continued to provide this excellent service, and from the centre in Redditch a total of 16,633 meals were served during the year, an increase on last year of 1,914.

The Centre at Astwood Bank also served a total of approximately 1,862 meals during the year, an increase on last year of 61.

PLAYGROUPS

There are a considerable number of playgroups privately organised throughout the district including a County Council nursery held at Beoley Road.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE
The County Council continue to provide a Health Visiting service. The Health Visitors serving the district are:-

Miss M. Pike, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Miss A. Potter, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Miss V.J. Crow, S.R.N., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre (left August 1972).
Miss D.M. Edwards S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., F.R.N., 152 Heathfield Road, (retired May 1972)
Mrs. J.W. Freeling, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Mrs. I. Lowe, R.G.N., S.R.F.N., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Mrs. C. Fenwick, S.R.N., H.V. Matchborough Health Centre.
Miss E. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Miss R. Gardener, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Mrs. T. Hirons, S.R.N., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Mrs. A. Hogg, S.R.N., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.
Mrs. A. Eagle, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Smallwood Health Centre.

SCHOOL HEALTH

The County Council continue to provide an extensive school health service; School Medical Officers carried out inspections of children and regular Minor Ailment Clinics were held at the Smallwood Health Centre. Specialist Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinics were also held. A full-time School Dental Officer was available. A child guidance service was also available with appointments by referral held at Smallwood Health Centre and home visits by Psychiatric Social Workers.

SMALLPOX, POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS, MEASLES AND TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G.) IMMUNISATION.

The County Council continue to provide this service.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological and virological investigations were carried out for the Department by Worcester Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Special investigations were carried out by the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale and chemical analyses by the County Laboratory at Worcester.

HOSPITALS

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district :-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen
Little Bromwich Fever Hospital
Newtown Isolation Hospital.

MATERNITY

Bromsgrove General Hospital
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport
Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge
Avonside Hospital, Evesham

GENERAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL CASES

Smallwood Hospital, Redditch
Bromsgrove General Hospital
Royal Infirmary, Worcester
Various Birmingham hospitals, including the Birmingham Accident Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

CHILDREN'S DISEASES

Children's Hospital, Birmingham

AGED CHRONIC SICK

Bromsgrove General Hospital
Avonside Hospital, Evesham
Blakebrook Hospital, Kidderminster

MENTAL ILLNESS

Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove
All Saints Hospital, Birmingham

VENEREAL DISEASES

The General Hospital, Birmingham
Worcester Royal Infirmary

OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES

"The Birches", Birchfield Road, Redditch
Roxboro House, Mount Pleasant
Other outlying homes.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified over the last 5 years, and also the annual total of measles vaccinations as from May 1968:-

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Whooping Cough	43	-	35	40	2
Scarlet Fever	10	15	8	17	14
Dysentery	12	15	1	2	5
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	17	3	4	5	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	4	1	2
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	3	3	6	3	7
Other	3	-	1	2	2
Measles	75	129	36	282	144
Measles Vaccination	680	406	797	743	524

MEASLES:- Cases notified in 1972 showing age incidence:-

<u>0-1</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>2-3</u>	<u>3-4</u>	<u>4-5</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15 & over</u>	<u>Age Unknown</u>
2	20	13	11	15	75	2	1	4

TUBERCULOSIS:- Incidence and number of deaths during the past five years:-

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Respiratory	Non-respiratory	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
1968	3	2	0	0
1969	3	0	0	1
1970	6	1	0	0
1971	3	0	3	0
1972	7	2	1	0

Total number of Tuberculosis cases on Register at the end of the years in question:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
1968	148	8
1969	132	8
1970	128	8
1971	67	4
1972	53	5

SMALLPOX :- Number of persons vaccinated during 1972.

Age at Vaccination	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	TOTAL
Primary Vaccination	-	-	3	-	3
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-

Vaccination has now been discontinued as a matter of National Policy as a routine measure in infancy as was formerly the case.

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNIZATION

The number of children who received a primary course of immunization during 1972 was as follows:-
Last year's figures are shown in brackets.

Diphtheria	850	(748)
Tetanus	856	(761)
Whooping Cough	685	(665)
Poliomyelitis	856	(759)
Rubella	224	(323)

Re-inforcing doses given:-

Diphtheria	264
Tetanus	295
Whooping Cough	2
Poliomyelitis	251

MEASLES :- Number of children who were vaccinated against Measles in the year ending December 1972.

Year of Birth	1972	1970	1969	1965-68	1956-74	Total
	429	60	9	25	1	524

TABLE 1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT - 1972

	M	F	TOTAL
Bacillary dysentery and amoebiasis	-	-	-
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	1
Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Malaria	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm of intestine	5	3	8
Malignant neoplasm of larynx	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	6	3	10
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	13	4	17
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	9	9
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
Leukaemia	3	1	4
Other malignant neoplasms	12	12	24
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes mellitus	2	1	3
Avitaminoses & other nutritional deficiency	-	-	-
Other endocrine diseases, etc.	-	2	2
Anaemias	1	1	2
Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1
Mental disorders	-	1	1
Meningitis	-	-	-
Other diseases of the nervous system	1	2	3
Active rheumatic fever	-	-	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	4	1	5
Hypertensive disease	6	4	10
Ischaemic heart disease	56	29	85
Other forms of heart disease	12	20	32
Cerebrovascular disease	18	33	51
Other diseases of the circulatory system	9	6	15
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	6	7	13
Bronchitis and Emphysema	17	8	25
Asthma	-	-	-
Other diseases of the respiratory system	7	3	10
Peptic ulcer	1	2	3
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	3	4
Cirrhosis of liver	-	2	2
Other diseases of the digestive system	4	3	7
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Other diseases of the genito-urinary system	-	1	1
Abortion	-	-	-
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth & puerperium	-	-	-
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	1	1	2
Diseases of the musculo-skeletal system	1	1	2
Congenital anomalies	5	1	6
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	1	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	1	9
All other accidents	4	3	7
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	2	1	3
All other external causes	-	-	-
TOTAL	222	175	397

TABLE 2 CONT'D

	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Other diseases of Digestive System	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hypertlasia of Prostate	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital anomalies	6	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	3	3	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
All other accidents	7	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-

TABLE 3

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NUMERICAL ORDER OF FREQUENCY
(Last year's totals shown in brackets)

	Total Number		M	F
1. Heart Disease	132	(116)	78	54
Broken down as follows:-				
Coronary Thrombosis	85		56	29
Hypertension	10		6	4
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	5		4	1
Other Forms	32		12	20
2. Malignant Neoplasms or Growths-(cancer)	75	(73)	40	35
Broken down as follows:-				
Stomach	9		6	3
Lung, Bronchus	17		13	4
Breast	9		-	9
Uterus (Womb)	3		-	3
Intestine	8		5	3
Leukaemia	4		3	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	24		12	12
Larynx	1		1	-
3. Cerebro-Vascular Disease				
"Strokes", Apoplexy etc.	51	(52)	18	33
4. Respiratory Diseases	49	(42)	31	18
Broken down as follows:-				
Bronchitis and Emphysema	25		17	8
Pneumonia	13		6	7
Other diseases of Respiratory System	11		8	3
5. Accidents.	16	(16)	12	4
Broken down as follows:-				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9		8	1
All Other Accidents	7		4	3
6. Congenital Anomalies.	8	(11)	7	1
Birth Injury and other causes of death within the first four weeks of life.				

TABLE 4

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS (Deaths within the first year)

Congenital Anomalies	5
Other diseases of Respiratory System	4
Other causes of Peri-natal mortality	3
Accidents	2

APPENDIX

VITAL STATISTICS

L I V E B I R T H S

	M	F	TOTAL	Rates per 1,000 estimated population	
				Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
Legitimate	415	385	800		
Illegitimate	19	32	51	18.1 (Corrected)	14.8(Corrected)
	<u>434</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>851</u>		

The corrected Birth Rate is .18.1. The Crude Birth Rate is 19.9
Area Comparability factor is .91

S T I L L B I R T H S

	M	F	TOTAL	Rates per 1,000 live and still births	
				Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
Legitimate	5	6	11		
Illegitimate	-	-	-	13	12
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>		

D E A T H S

D E A T H S - ALL AGES

M	F	TOTAL	Rates per 1,000 estimated population	
			Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
222	162	397	12.4	12.1

The corrected Death Rate is 12.4

(The crude death rate being 9.3 and the area comparability
factor 1.33)

INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 related live births)

	M	F	Total	Rates per 1,000 related live births	
				Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
Legitimate	11	2	13	16	17
Illegitimate	-	1	1	16	17
Total	11	3	14	20	21

NEONATAL MORTALITY (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)

	M	F	Total	Rates per 1,000 live births	
				Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
Legitimate	7	-	7	9	12
Illegitimate	-	1	1		
Total	7	1	8		

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)

	M	F	Total	Rates per 1,000 live births	
				Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
Legitimate	6	-	6		
Illegitimate	-	1	1		
Total	6	1	7	8	10

PERINATAL MORTALITY (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)

	M	F	Total	Rates per 1,000 live and still births	
				Redditch U.D.C.	England & Wales
Legitimate	11	6	17		
Illegitimate	-	1	1	21	22
Total	11	7	18		

H O U S I N G

Number of houses completed by Council during the year	
Number of houses built by private enterprise	3,386
Number of houses under construction by Council.....	225
Number of houses under construction by private enterprise	740
Number of houses under construction by Redditch Development Corporation	589
Number of houses built by Redditch Development Corporation	2,799
Total number of post-war Council houses built	2,943

POPULATION IN RELATION TO THE NUMBER OF INHABITED DWELLINGS

Year	Population	Increase or decrease in population	Natural increase (births less deaths)	Increase by Immigration	Units of Accommodation	Increase in units of Accommodation	No, of persons per unit
1963	35,450	650	303	347	11,716	308	3.02
1964	35,960	530	397	133	11,885	169	3.02
1965	36,620	660	386	274	11,973	88	3.06
1966	36,780	166	391	-231	12,083	110	3.04
1967	36,900	120	283	-163	12,123	40	3.04
1968	37,080	180	325	-145	12,451	328	3.00
1969	37,900	820	268	+552	13,220	769	2.86
1970	40,010	2,110	435	+1685	14,129	909	2.83
1971	41,160	1,150	505	+645	14,645	516	2.84
1972	42,830	1,670	466	+1204	15,016	374	2.85

MEDICAL PRIORITIES

13 people were granted housing priority on medical grounds for the following reasons:-

Heart and Chest Diseases	6
Stroke.....	1
Diabetes	1
Amputation of leg	1
Colostomy	1
Arthritis	2
Cancer	1

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is somewhat ironic that as I prepared my annual report for the year 1972 we should have been coping with a gas workers' strike, now happily resolved, for it was at the beginning of this year we were coping with the effects of the miners' strike and in that instance, because at that time there was not an office of the Social Services in Redditch, I was made responsible for the issue in this district of Priority Fuel Certificates enabling the elderly, those in ill health, expectant mothers and mothers of very young children to priority solid fuel supplies from dwindling stocks.

Some 140 certificates were issued to those who depended on solid fuel for heating and/or cooking. There were many more applications from people who did not fall within the categories above, and for whom unfortunately certificates had to be refused. As electric supplies were also affected, because most generating stations depended on coal, the families who had no gas supply were at times hard hit from both the standpoints of heating and cooking, although I suppose this would not have related to the person who advertised "quiet gentleman seeks comfortable room where he can cook himself on a spirit stove".

There have been two other what might be described as extraordinary matters this year. One that of the case of the dangerous beads, when necklaces made of Jacquaruty beans and castor oil beans originating in Africa were found to be highly toxic if eaten or chewed, and thanks to the coverage given by the press we were able to bring this to the attention of the public and we had a number of these necklaces handed in to the office.

The other matter concerned the dumping of cyanide and this exercised the minds of many local authorities and lead to the introduction of the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act 1972, requiring all movements of toxic waste to be notified to District Councils.

There is one particular singer who some years ago made famous a song which had as part of the lines "It was a very good year" and then proceeded to expand for what it was a good year - It was not, however, a good year as far as Redditch was concerned for Improvement Grants and the total of all grants approved was only 65 - 14 less than in 1971. This may of course have been due partly to the uncertainty of the future of the Lodge Road Area and partly because of the increased cost of conversions, but if we are to save our older houses it would appear that we shall have to embark on a full scale campaign to encourage owners to improve their houses. As soon as the Lodge Road Area is declared a General Improvement Area it might well be opportune to appoint Improvement Grant Officers who could actively pursue the matter, not only to encourage improvement of the Lodge Road area but to encourage the improvement of other houses throughout the district, including Astwood Bank and Feckenham.

Clearance of unfit houses has again occupied much of the time of your officers and during the year 134 houses were represented as unfit. In the case of one area, Clive Road and Melen Street, the Council received a number of plans presented by students of the Birmingham School of Architecture, suggesting layouts and types of housing which could be considered when the area was re-developed. Members who attended the meeting were impressed by the standards achieved by the students and I think the exercise was appreciated by the students who had gained valuable experience, and by members of the Council who were able to compare a number of different ways it is possible to provide good housing in the area.

It is I suppose a sign of the times that houses within proposed clearance areas are being bought and sold on the open market as with the price of new houses and indeed that of substantial older property being so high, the ability of those wishing to buy their own house for the first time is severely restricted. There is of course nothing to stop people buying houses within proposed clearance areas and so long as they have been resident two years before the areas are confirmed by the Secretary of State, then they get full market value for their property. The difficulty comes when they do sufficient work themselves to remove the house from the unfit category and the Council do not wish to purchase

the area under compulsory purchase powers. We can then well be left with say 9 unfit houses and one fit house in the middle and it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to demolish the others. Dealing with the unfit house for sale as an individually unfit house would not necessarily solve the problem, as the Council would be obliged to accept a scheme to make the house fit if one was submitted. The time may well come when the Council will have to buy land it does not particularly want in order that it may be properly cleared and developed by private enterprise. There may also be a case for declaring substandard properties unfit and rehousing the tenants, with the specific purpose of allowing the owners to improve them. I am thinking specifically of property in Astwood Bank and Feckenham where there are a number of houses which by themselves are not capable of improvement, but which should be preserved in order to maintain the character of the villages and it would mean knocking two houses into one in order to provide adequate living accommodation to present day standards.

The Government issued a White Paper in November entitled "Development and Compensation" which could have far reaching effects, dealing as it does with providing for the cost of sound insulation to owners whose houses are subjected to subscribed noise levels (not yet determined) due to increase of traffic noise, as well as compensation for depreciation for the owner/occupier whose house value is depreciated, as example from noise and smell due to roadways and airports. This compensation to be three times the rateable value, subject to a maximum of £1,500. Owner/occupiers will also have the opportunity of requiring the Local Authority to purchase houses in proposed clearance areas before the area is actually confirmed.

The Government also intend to repeal Sec.11 of the New Towns Act which now enables anyone in a designated New Town to require a New Town Development Corporation to purchase their property. But they are at the moment looking again at the question following representations from this Authority.

Another major piece of Housing legislation introduced this year is the form of the Housing Finance Act 1972 which, in the main, deals with rent rebates and the automatic decontrol of tenanted houses at specified dates, depending on their rateable values.

The Department continued to be very active in the field of Food Hygiene and one of the topics that exercised the minds of many was the question of date stamping of foodstuffs. Various consumer groups have long advocated the use of date stamping and at long last the Government is to introduce legislation to require certain foodstuffs to be so stamped.

We have continued to take swabs from washed drinking glasses from licenced premises with pleasing results.

With the ever increasing number of food preparation and food shops in Redditch we have been exceedingly busy seeing that the Food Hygiene Regulations are complied with, and a good deal of time is taken up prior to these premises becoming operative, with the examination of detailed plans and advising on all matters appertaining to the storage and handling of food. The ~~market~~ hall reached its final stages during the year and promises to be an attractive addition to the town centre. When it opens all food, with the exception of fruit and vegetables, sold on the open market will be required to be completely wrapped.

One inovation we have seen this year has been the open fronted butchers' shops now in the Kingfisher Mall. Before they opened we travelled to other towns where these shops were in operation to satisfy ourselves that there were no contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and much will depend on the managers to see that the high standard of hygiene is maintained. A close watch will be kept to see that there is no risk of contamination from the Mall itself.

With the increase in the use of deep freeze units, both commercially and at home, particular attention has been paid to the supplies of these commodities and to their storage in shops, and advice is available on the proper method of storage and the best type of food for storage to any member of the public who wants it.

The investigation of food complaints is very time consuming and this year we have been particularly busy with no fewer than 60 being received by the Dept.

The investigations as I have said are very time consuming and this results from the fact that, because of the methods of manufacture and distribution, many companies may be involved and we endeavour to contact them all so that the whole chain of operations can come under scrutiny. For instance, a case of insects in a packaged product could have originated from the consumer's home, the retail store, the distributor, the wholesaler, the manufacturer, or if there is one, the shipping agent, and our correspondence has gone as far as South Africa, Canada, Holland and South America. One thing that does give rise for concern is the fact that, should the produce be manufactured or canned in a country outside the British Isles and where there is no registered office in this country, the complaint cannot be laid before a British Court of Jurisdiction, and as this country imports some 50% of its foodstuffs the amount of complaints arising from produce coming into this country could be of a fairly high proportion.

We continue to get complaints from patrons who dine at Oriental Restaurants and are not quite sure that the food they are served is what they expected and, in particular, that the chicken is not in fact so. We have not yet found these complaints justified but I am reminded of one such restaurant owner who complained that the English only wanted legs of chicken and if only he could produce a chicken with four legs he would be rich. After much cross breeding he succeeded in producing such chickens with four legs but despite this he went bankrupt because having bred them, he could'nt catch them.

As you will see from the detailed report the work of the department has increased as the Town develops, especially with regard to offices, shops, factories, licenced premises and the like and surveys have been carried out extensively concerning noise levels throughout the district.

Over the last year our minds have been exercised by thoughts of re-organisation and, of course, this does not only concern local government but the National Health Service to the extent that Medical Officers of Health, now in local government, will be transferred to this service to serve on Regional Health Boards, Area Health Boards and as community physicians. The effect of this will be work carried out at present by the M.O.H. in local government, in particular that of school medical inspection, work in welfare clinics, medical assessments, together with administration will then be part of the duties within the N.H.S. and it is clear that there will have to be close liaison between District Councils and Area and District Health Boards in matters arising in the field of epidemiology.

Meanwhile the work of public health as it affects the District Council will, it is expected, be carried on through the Public Health Committee and the work again is expected to be much as it is at present.

There is much to be done to maintain the standards we have achieved and we must make plans for the future now knowing, as far as we can ever know, what the future holds. I have in mind further endeavour in the field of house improvement; the possible introduction of Smoke Control Areas, work in connection with noise control which I feel must intensify, especially with the thoughts of the concept of Noise Control Areas and the possible introduction of further talks and lectures on the many facets of environmental health, a subject with which the general public have become increasingly concerned.

Whatever the outcome of the reorganisation as far as Redditch is concerned, I can assure all members of the Committee that they can continue to rely on the standard of work they have come to expect from their public health officers.

During the year we have seen changes in staff and while Mr. Jones and Mr. Cartwright have left, we have welcomed Mr. Ian Bolton from Hartlepool and Mr. Tom MacKinlay from Birmingham and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all members of the staff for their loyal support during 1972. I wish also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, your Vice-Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, who have worked with me to maintain the high standards of Environmental Health I feel we have in Redditch.

HOUSING

Demolition and Clearance of houses

Progress continues to be made to clear unfit houses in the Urban District and the following tables set out the action taken:-

Clearance Areas

	<u>No. of houses</u>
Albert Street	9
Clive Road/Melen Street	39
Hewell Road	6
Lodge Road/Union Street	5
William Street	11
Victoria Street	8
Queen Street	3
Orchard Street	26
Grove Street	6
St. George's Road	8
	<hr/>
	121
	<hr/>

Individual Unfit

9 & 11 Birchfield Road	- Demolition Order	2
16 Avenue Road, Astwood Bank	- " "	1
56 Other Road	- " "	1
103/105 Beoley Road	- Closing Order	2
29 Victoria Street	- " "	1
169 Beoley Road	- " "	1
rear 77 Heathfield Road	- Undertaking accepted	1
		<hr/>
		9
		<hr/>

The total number of houses represented in Clearance Areas and as individual unfit during 1972 was 130, an increase of 51 over last year.

During the year 53 houses were demolished.

Improvement of houses

The maximum grant payable for a Standard Grant (for the provision of a bathroom) remains at £450 and for a Discretionary Grant (for the overall improvement of the houses) £1,000 and this involves, as works allowable for grant, that of repairs and replacements incidental to improvement.

During 1972 41 applications for grant were approved, 13 for Standard Grants and 28 for Discretionary Grants. The total amount paid as grant being £27,063; £3,110 for Standard Grants and £23,953 for Discretionary Grants. This is a decrease of 38 applications compared with last year but an increase of £4,317 in total monies paid.

Towards the end of the year we came a little closer to being able to declare Lodge Road/Marsden Road an Improvement Area and it is hoped that in 1973 this aim will be achieved.

Inspection of dwelling houses

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (either under Public Health Acts for statutory defects or under the Housing Acts for disrepair)	...	97
2. Statutory Notices served	...	32
3. Statutory Notices complied	...	29
Houses (as apart from nuisances not concerning houses) in which defects were remedied after service of:-		
Statutory Notices	...	20

At no time was it found necessary to take legal action to enforce statutory notices.

Houses in Multi-Occupation

Inspections continue to be made on a limited scale of houses in multi-occupation. Staffing difficulties continue to prevent inspection of every house but we have supplied a list of houses known to be in multi-occupation, a total of 74, to the Fire Brigade who are engaged on inspection of houses with regard to fire escapes. There have been 52 visits made to houses in multi-occupation throughout the year.

Qualification Certificates

The Housing Act 1969 introduced legislation whereby a landlord can apply to the Rent Officer for an increase to be made to the rent of his property if it is rent controlled. When doing this he must produce a "Qualification Certificate". Such a certificate must be obtained from the Local Authority and, before it can be granted, the house must satisfy these conditions:-

1. the house must have the five standard amenities (bath, lavatory basin, hot & cold water supply, sink and internal w.c);
2. the house must be in good repair, having regard to its age, character and locality, and
3. must be in all other respects fit for human habitation.

During 1972 40 applications were received for Qualification Certificates, a decrease of 52 compared with last year, which were granted subject to repairs being carried out.

By the Housing Financial Act 1972, which came into force this year, the need for Provisional Qualification Certificates was discontinued, although it will still be incumbent upon the landlord to obtain Qualification Certificates if he wishes to remove the house from the category of "controlled" to that of "regulated", except that a house will now become "regulated" automatically on certain dates and these dates depend on the rateable value (based on the 1963 figures) and so far as this affects local authorities outside London, a tenanted house whose rateable value exceeded £60 became regulated on 1st January 1973. Other houses become 'regulated' as follows:- R.V. £45 - £60 on 1st July 1973; £35 - £44 on 1st January 1974; £25 - £34 on 1st July 1974; £20 - £24 on 1st January 1975 and those of rateable value of under £20 on 1st July 1975.

This means in effect that after these relevant dates a landlord can apply to the Rent Officer to fix a fair rent without the house having a bathroom or being in good repair, but of course the amount of rent he will be able to receive will be reflected in the condition of his property.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act

The department continues to inspect, as required, houses for which the Council receives mortgage applications. Inspections are carried out to determine the state of repair of the property, to ascertain its suitability for an improvement grant and to give an estimate as to the 'life' of the property. During 1972 103 inspections and re-inspections were made for 44 applications.

FOOD HYGIENE

There are no slaughterhouses in the Urban District. There is one large factory specialising in meat products. This firm maintains its own laboratory where a constant check is kept on the quality of its food products. Samples are also taken from time to time by this department for bacteriological examination as are samples taken from the well water used for cooling purposes and cleaning down.

As the town expands so the number of food premises increases, although some have been displaced by New Town Development. There are now 479 food premises in the area, an increase of 28, and details of these and inspections carried out are as follows:-

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections made</u>
Markets	...	1	144
Bakehouses	...	1	4
Food Retail Shops	...	196	89
Food Preparation Premises	...	86	102
Ice Cream Vendors and manufacturers	...	130	130
Licensed Premises (Including Clubs)	...	62	50
Food Manufacturing premises	...	3	10
Total:-	...	<u>479</u>	<u>529</u>

Condemned Food

The following is a list of foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Fish	...	105 lbs
Carcase meat	...	20 lbs
Cooked meat & meat products	...	261 lbs
Canned meats	...	22 cans
Other canned foods	...	318 cans

677 packets of various frozen foods were surrendered to the Department because of refrigerator breakdowns. This is a great improvement on last year when a total of 3,397 packets of frozen foods were surrendered.

Food Complaints

A total of 60 complaints were investigated, an increase of 7 over last year.

Food involved was as follows:-

Bread & Confectionery	...	13
Meat Products	...	16
Canned Goods	...	8
Milk & Milk Products	...	9
Others	...	14

The complaints concerned:-

Foreign bodies	...	23
Mould	...	24
Abnormal taste & odour	...	6
Putrefaction	...	2
Dirty milk bottles	...	2
Others	...	3

23 cases were referred to the Committee for their consideration. Warning letters were sent in 5 of the cases and 18 decisions to prosecute were taken.

Two cases have yet to come to Court and two decisions to prosecute had to be rescinded.

Of the 14 cases heard in Court the results were as follows:-

Article of food	Nature of Complaint	Result of legal proceedings.
(1) Cheese	Mould growth	£25 fine + £2 costs
(2) Pop Corn	Wasp	£20 fine + £1 "
(3) Apple Strudel	Wasp	£15 fine + £10 "
(4) Loose Bacon	Fly blown	£20 fine + £5 "
(5) Milk Bottle	Glass	£40 fine + £10 costs
(6) Milk Bottle	Hair grip	£20 fine + £1 "
(7) Crisps	Mould growth	£15 fine
(8) Meat Pie	Flake of rust	£30 fine + £5 costs
(9) Buns	Mould	£40 fine + £10 costs
(10) Loaf of Bread	Mould	£25 fine + £10 "
(11) Steak & Kidney Pie	Mould	£20 fine + £5 "
(12) Loaf of Bread	Nail	£60 fine + £2 "
(13) Custard Pie	Mould	£25 fine + £5 "
(14) White Pudding	Mould	£25 fine + £10 "

A total of £380 in fines and £76 costs were imposed by the Magistrates' Court.

Ice Cream

Manufacturers' premises:- 2 premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream (cold mix).

Vendors' premises:- 122 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

During the year 1 application for registration of premises for the sale of pre-packed ice cream was approved.

Routine inspections of both types of premises were carried out.

Sampling

i) Bacteriological Samples

There are four Ministry provisional grades for ice cream. Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and Grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory. 6 samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

ii) Chemical Samples

The minimum chemical standard for ice cream is 5% fat and 7½% solids not fat. The 6 chemical samples taken were of a satisfactory standard.

Food & Drugs Act

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The following table gives details of contraventions found and remedied with regard to the requirements to food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations:-

RegulationContraventions

			<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
7	Cleanliness of Equipment	...	29	23
9	Risk of Contamination	...	11	10
10	Sanitary Accommodation	...	7	5
17	Water Supply	...	-	-
18	Wash-hand basin	...	10	6
19	First-Aid Material	...	3	3
20	Accommodation for Clothing	...	1	1
21	Sinks	...	4	3
18	Soap & Towels	...	7	7
22	Lighting	...	4	1
23	Ventilation	...	9	7
25	Cleanliness & Repair	...	52	43
26	Accumulation of Refuse	...	4	4
27	Rodent & Insect Proofing	...	7	3
			<u>148</u>	<u>116</u>

Swabbing

The Department continued taking swabs of washed drinking glasses from licenced premises in order to ascertain the degree of cleanliness obtained and to correct any poor methods used, as well as to find the source of any contamination.

The number of organisms found is based on a straight count. Any count below 500 organisms per swab is considered satisfactory and above, of course, unsatisfactory.

During the year initially swabs were taken to the Public Health laboratory. Of these 114 were found to be satisfactory and 29 unsatisfactory. These 29 were taken again after advice on the method of washing and proved satisfactory. These details show that of the initial swabs taken 80% were found to be satisfactory and we may well be pleased with the standard set by the majority of proprietors of licenced premises in Redditch.

Results of Swabbing

<u>Plate Count</u>	<u>No.of swabs with this result</u>
Sterile	49
10-100 organisms per swab	67
101-499 " " "	12
500+ " " "	15
No.of swabs where coliform bacilli were present:-	21
No.of swabs where E.Coli was present:-	3

CLEAN AIR

There are no smoke control areas in the Urban District but most new houses built by the Local Authority and the New Town Development Corporation are equipped to burn either oil, gas or electricity. It has been noticed that an increasing number of householders are changing of their own accord from burning bituminous coal to smokeless fuels, with the emphasis on gas and some houses are built with the traditional open hearth but constructed so as being capable of burning smokeless fuel.

Section 6 of the Clean Air Act requires that approval must be given by the Local Authority to any firm proposing to erect a chimney as to the height of that chimney. This is to provide for effective dispersal of pollutants, mainly sulphur dioxide, into the atmosphere. The calculations are based on the fuel to be used, the rate of burning, type of furnace, sulphur content of the fuel, height of building and locality of the premises.

During the year 2 applications were received and were approved with or without modification.

Section 3 requires that notification is given to the Local Authority of all installations of boilers with over 55,000 Btu's. Only one such notification was received during 1972 and it is obvious from the erection of new premises that many such installations are not being notified. An investigation is being carried out to find out the number involved.

NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year 18 complaints were received concerning noise and this compares favourably with 37 last year. 2 concerned barking dogs, 3 'pop' groups, 7 of noisy machines, 1 from an extractor fan, 1 from a generator and 4 of noise from earth moving machines. 59 visits were made concerning these complaints and the noise abated or is in the process of being abated.

The Department also took part in a West Midlands Noise Survey and 36 readings taken at 12 predetermined points throughout the district, at times ranging from 10a.m. in the day to 2a.m. during the night. These showed that, at the moment, in terms of traffic noise Redditch has little problem, despite the fact that some residents may find it troublesome. It remains to be seen what effect the new roads will have on the noise levels.

Noise is of course one of the most difficult problems to deal with as what might be a nuisance to one person will not disturb someone else. The best method of one person to deal with a noise which he is finding personally objectionable is to seek a private injunction.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following report is as submitted to the Ministry of Social Security. In addition in Table G is given a list of contraventions found and work carried out to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Of the 297 registered premises, 17 fewer than last year, inspection were carried out on 51 premises during the year and 92 visits were made under the Act. This is not as satisfactory as we would wish. 6 premises were registered during the year and 23 registrations were cancelled. All premises registered have been inspected.

TABLE A

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly reg'd during the year	No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of reg'd premises receiving inspections during year.
Offices	2	89	11
Retail shops	4	159	23
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	9	3
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	40	14
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	6	297	51

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY
INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

61

TABLE C

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of Workpeople	No. of persons employed
Offices	677
Retail shops	850
Wholesale departments, warehouses	88
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	210
Total:-	1825
Total Males:- 790	Total females:- 1,035

This shows a decrease of 36 over last year; the total of men employed fell by 5 and the total of women employed fell by 31.

TABLE D EXEMPTIONS ... Nil

TABLE E PROSECUTIONS ... Nil

TABLE F INSPECTORS

Number of inspectors appointed under Sec.52(1)
or (5) of the Act ... 6

Number of other staff employed for most of their
time on work in connection with the Act ... Nil

TABLE G CONTRAVENTIONS

Subject of Contraventions	Contraventions Found	Contraventions Remedied
Cleanliness	7	7
Lighting	2	1
Ventilation	1	1
Temperature	-	-
Washing Facilities	-	-
Sanitary Accommodation	4	4
Floors, Passages & Stairs	5	3
Information for Employees	-	-
First Aid	2	2
Dangerous Machinery	-	-
Total number of informal notices served:-	21	

FACTORIES

For the purpose of inspection under the Factories Act 1961, factories are divided into those without power, for which the Local Health Authority is responsible for enforcing provisions as to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors (Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6) and factories with power, for which the Authority is responsible for enforcing and provisions for satisfactory sanitary accommodation (Section 7).

The table below gives details of inspections carried out:-

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	30	9	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	412	50	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.	8	1		
Totals:-	450	60	-	-

Three contraventions of the Sanitary Regulations were brought to our notice by the Factories Inspector and were remedied by informal action.

WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company throughout the district. There are in addition 34 wells in the district.

Samples of mains water are taken regularly by the Waterworks Co. and this department received copies of the results, all of which have been satisfactory.

Samples of well water are taken periodically to check the chemical and bacteriological standard.

The list below is of mains completed by the Waterworks Co. in the Urban District during the year.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sugarbrook to Headless Cross	2,200 yds. 27" P.C.
	953 " 24" D.I.
Forge Mill Road	28 " 4" PVC
	140 " 2" PVC
Matchborough 'D' Housing	168 " 8" PVC
	623 " 6" PVC
	446 " 4" PVC
	497 " 3" PVC
	378 " 2" PVC
Arthur Street/Kingsley Avenue Industrial Estate	359 " 4" PVC

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sites 4 and 5 Washford Industrial Estate	130 yds 6" PVC 180 " 4" PVC
Auxerre Avenue	12 " 4" PVC 151 " 3" PVC
Winyates Leading Distributor Main	510 " 21" S.I.
Site 4, Washford Industrial Estate	140 " 3" PVC
Astwood Bank to Sambourne	293 " 3" PVC
Southcrest Meadows	404 " 6" PVC 350 " 3" PVC

TOTAL:- 9,940 "

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

16 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Housing conditions, contacts and their employment and, in appropriate cases, the means of isolation formed the subject of enquiries.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

50 visits were made during the year to verminous premises, mostly affected with fleas.

The following table summarises the action taken:-

Disinfestation

Rooms fumigated:- 60

In the case of personal infestation the persons involved are advised to attend the disinfestation centre at Bacchus Road, Birmingham.

RODENT CONTROL

Local Authority premises such as refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. The department still receives a number of complaints from the new estates but this is only to be expected as the farm and open land which was the rat habitat for many years has been disturbed and their shelter and food supplies gone and the rats have been turning towards the dwelling houses for shelter and food supply. The numbers have not been great and all treatments so far carried out have been successful.

The table below gives an analysis of inspections and treatments:-

Inspections

Number of domestic premises inspected	...	1,296
" " business " "	...	255
" " local authority "	...	189
" " farms "	...	4
Total number of premises inspected:-		1,744
" " " inspections, including re-inspections		2,340

Infestations found

Total number of infestations found (This is a decrease of 55 over last year)	...	446
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Analysis of infestations

Number of infestations found(Rats)(Major) (Estimated at over 20 rats)	...	3
Number of infestations found(Rats)(Minor) (Estimated at under 20 rats)	...	403
Total number of infestations found(Rats) (a decrease of 41)	...	<hr/> 406
Number of infestations found (Mice)(Major)-over 20	...	3
Number of infestations found (Mice)(Minor)-under 20	...	58
Total number of infestations found (Mice) (a decrease of 3)	...	<hr/> 61

Treatments

Number of first treatments	...	467
Total number of visits for treatment	...	1353

Analysis of First Treatments

Number of first treatments (Rats)(Major)	...	7
" " " " (Rats)(Minor)	...	405
" " " " (Mice)(Major)	...	-
" " " " (Mice)(Minor)	...	34
Total number of treatments (Rats & Mice)	...	<hr/> 446

MISCELLANEOUS

Pet Animals Act

There are 5 shops registered under the Pet Animals Act in the Urban District. 10 inspections were made during the year.

Boarding Establishment Act

The Act requires all boarding establishments to be registered with the Local Authority.

The two Boarding Kennels at Ipsley have given way to housing development and there are no longer any registered kennels in the district.

Gaming Act

Under this Act proprietors of cafes and restaurants wishing to put in gaming machines, 'one-armed bandits', are required to have a permit to do so. There have been no new applications this year and the total remains at 9.

Riding Establishments Act

There are two Riding Establishments now registered in the district and inspections are made together with a Veterinary Officer.

Rag Flock Act

This Act came into force in 1951 and laid down a standard for filling materials used in upholstery. There are no premises subject to this Act in the district.

Scrap Metal Dealers' Act

There have been four new registrations during 1972 and there are now 10 Scrap Metal Dealers in the Urban District.

Shops Act

There are 503 retail shops in the Urban District which come under the Shops Acts 1950 & 1968. 5½ day trading operates in Redditch and in general the half day closing is taken on Wednesday afternoon. 16 visits have been made following complaints of Sunday trading. 10 were found to be justified and the shop owners warned of the contraventions.

Knacker's Yard

There is one Knacker's Yard in Redditch. These are premisesⁱⁿ which animals are slaughtered because of illness or injury, or which receive carcasses of animals which have died elsewhere and the meat of which is unfit for human consumption and is usually sold as pet food. Under the Regulations made in November 1969 it is a requirement that, except in special circumstances, all meat from a Knacker's Yard must be sterilised before leaving the yard. 4 inspections were made during the year.

Agricultural Act

The Local Authority is responsible for inspections under this Act as to the adequacy of sanitary accommodation for farm workers. There are 101 farms within the district.

Caravans

There are no registered sites in the Urban District.

Swimming Baths

There is one public swimming bath in Redditch. A frequent check is kept on the quality of the water by the Baths Manager.

In addition 6 samples have been taken by the department for chemical analysis and chlorine content and one was found to be unsatisfactory.

A. Summerfield,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

